

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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USIA-06 EURE-00 /073 W

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P 021435Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9792

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 04933

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SE, UK, XO, PFOR, MP

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WAS HOPING SEYCHELLES CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE MARCH 14-27 WOULD BE DEFINITIVE EXPECTING IT WOULD NOT BE AND FEARING ONE OR THE OTHER OF SEYCHELLES PARTIES MIGHT WALK OUT BEFORE IT WAS COMPLETED. ALTHOUGH CONFERENCE DID NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON CENTRAL ISSUE OF ELECTIONS, THEY DID AGREE ON INTERIM CONSTITUTION AND ON RECOMMENDATION FOR ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMISSION. BRITISH FEEL THEY ALSO SUCCEEDED IN LAST TWO DAYS IN IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS, MANCHAM AND RENEE. BIOT MENTIONED IN TALKS, BUT WERE NOT SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS. IN HIS OPENING AND CLOSING SPEECHES, RENEE REFERRED TO BIOT AND CALLED FOR THEM TO BE RETURNED TO SEYCHELLES. MANCHAM CONTENTED HIMSELF BY NOTING IN HIS OPENING SPEECH THAT FUTURE OF "SEYCHELLES ISLANDS NOW INCORPORATED IN BIOT" MUST BE CONSIDERED IN DEFINING THE EXTENT OF INDEPENDENT SEYCHELLES. END SUMMARY.

2. SEYCHELLES CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE HELD TWELVE PLENARY SESSIONS BETWEEN MARCH 14 AND 27 TO CONSIDER THE

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FORM OF AN INTERIM CONSTITUTION AND A POSSIBLE CONSTITU-

TION FOR AN INDEPENDENT SEYCHELLES. CONFERENCE DID NOT REACH AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE PERMITTED FCO TO SUBMIT TO CABINET AND PARLIAMENT PROPOSALS FOR AN INDEPENDENT CONSTITUTION, BUT PARTICIPANTS DID AGREE ON PRINCIPLES FOR AN INTERIM CONSTITUTION AND ON A NUMBER OF POINTS FOR AN INDEPENDENT CONSTITUTION.

3. BOTH SEYCHELLES PARTIES, SDP AND SPUP, THROUGH THEIR LEADERS, MANCHAM AND RENEE, AGREED THAT INTERIM CONSTITUTION SHOULD PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF 10 ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO PRESENT LEGISLATURE, 5 TO BE NOMINATED BY EACH PARTY, AND THAT CABINET WOULD BE COMPOSED OF 8 MINISTERS FROM SDP AND 4 FROM SPUP. INTERIM CONSTITUTION WILL BE INTRODUCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION, FCO HAS AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMISSION, ALONG LINES DISCUSSED BY MANCHAM AND RENEE, AS POSSIBLE MEANS OF RESOLVING DIFFERING VIEWS REGARDING SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS AND SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF LEGISLATURE.

4. ELECTORAL COMMISSION WOULD BE ASKED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO FONSEC CALLAGHAN BEFORE END OF 1975 WITH A VIEW TO FURTHER DISCUSSION "AT A RENEWED CONFERENCE, SAY, IN JANUARY 1975." AT THAT CONFERENCE HMG WOULD AIM TO DETERMINE OUTSTANDING PROVISIONS OF AN INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION SO THAT SEYCHELLES WOULD BE ENABLED TO PROCEED TO INDEPENDENCE NOT LATER THAN JUNE 30, 1976. MEANWHILE, MANCHAM AND RENEE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RESOLVE THEIR REMAINING DIFFERENCES.

5. PARAGRAPHS 2-4 TAKEN FROM COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED AT END OF CONFERENCE. DURING CONVERSATION AT FCO ON APRIL 1 EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT DIFFERENCES OVER ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF LEGISLATURE, AS WELL AS ANIMOSITY BETWEEN MANCHAM AND RENEE, TOOK UP SO MUCH TIME THAT BIOT, ALTHOUGH MENTIONED, WAS NOT DISCUSSED. BRITISH BELIEVE THEY SUCCEEDED IN GETTING MANCHAM AND RENEE TO TALK TO EACH OTHER IN FRIENDLY TERMS AND TO BEGIN TO WORK TOGETHER. NEVERTHELESS, BRITISH ALSO BELIEVE THAT EVEN IF ELECTORAL ISSUE SETTLED, PROBLEM OF BIOT WOULD STILL

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PREVENT FINAL CONSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT WITH CONCOMITANT POLITICAL PROBLEMS IT WOULD RAISE FOR UK AND US IN AFRICA AND IN UN.

6. IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE AND FOR USG EYES ONLY, FCO SOURCE HAS GIVEN US COPIES OF CONFIDENTIAL CONFERENCE REPORT AND CLOSING SPEECHES BY LEADING PARTICIPANTS. COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS AND UNCLASSIFIED COMMUNIQUE

BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT(AF/E) AND NAIROBI. RENEE, IN  
HIS OPENING SPEECH CLAIMED "PEOPLE OF SEYCHELLES ARE

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INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 04933

CALLING FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE WHOLE OF THEIR COUN-  
TRY. THE THREE ISLANDS THAT WERE DETACHED FROM  
SEYCHELLES TO FORM PART OF THE SO-CALLED BIOT MUST BE  
HANDED BACK TO SEYCHELLES." IN HIS CLOSING SPEECH RENEE  
CALLED ON ALL PARTIES TO "PERHAPS ATTEMPT TO FIND A SOLU-  
TION TO BIOT" PROBLEM. MANCHAM IN OPENING ADDRESS  
NOTED THE NEED TO DEFINE THE EXTENT OF AN INDEPENDENT  
SEYCHELLES AND "TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF THE SEYCHELLES  
ISLANDS NOW INCORPORATED IN THE BIOT." FCO SOURCE SAID  
BRITISH DID NOT MENTION BIOT, BUT AS THEY HAD ASSURED US,  
IF PUSHED TO THE POINT OF HAVING TO SAY SOMETHING, THEIR  
INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO STICK WITH THE COMMENT THAT THEY  
WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE USG BEFORE  
TAKING ANY POSITION. SAME SOURCE ADDED THAT SUBJECT OF  
CONSULTATIONS WITH US ON BIOT NOW BEING CONSIDERED AT  
UNDER SECRETARY LEVEL IN HMG.

7. COMMENT: BRITISH EXPECTING TO BE UNDER INCREASED  
PRESSURE ON FARQUARHAR, ALDABRA AND ISLES DES ROCHES FROM  
SEYCHELLOIS, OTHER AFRICANS AND UN. FROM TENOR OF CONVER-

SATION AT FCO, BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO BE AS SPECIFIC AS  
POSSIBLE IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH ON OUR NEEDS  
FOR ISLANDS AND ALSO CONSIDER SOME FORM OF COMPENSATION  
FOR SEYCHELLOIS. SUCH QUID PRO QUO UNLIKELY TO CHANGE  
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RENEE'S POSITION, BUT MIGHT WELL PROP UP MANCHAM. END  
COMMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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